

after "construction" add --of FIG. 4--.

a6
Page 15, line 15, after "FIG. 4.", add --Compression in the vicinity of the ink supply port is also achieved where the ink absorbing member overlies the opening (141) in the tank as shown in FIGS. 9 and 10, since arm 12d of ink supply guide 12 is inserted through the opening into compressing engagement with the ink absorbing member in such a construction (compare FIGS. 2, 4, 9 and 10).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 1 and substitute the following new claims:

Sub C2
81
25. An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer comprising:

a7
an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and compressed in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port.

95 26. The ink-supply system of claim ⁹⁴25, wherein said ink-supply tank includes a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port, at least a portion of the ink absorbing member being compressingly contained in the space between said ink-supply delivery port and said wall of said ink tank.

C 96 27. The ink-supply system of claim ⁹⁵26, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^athe compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

C 97 28. The ink-supply system of claim ⁹⁵26, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed}desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an

inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

98 ⁹⁷ 28. The ink-supply system of claim 28, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

99 ⁹⁸ 30. The ink-supply system of claim 29, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ~~the~~ ^a compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

100 ⁹⁷ 31. The ink-supply system of claim 28, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port.

101 ¹⁰⁰ 32. The ink-supply system of claim 31, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

Sub 82 → 33. The ink-supply system of claim 25, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} ~~desired~~ capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

34. The ink-supply system of claim 33, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

103 ⁹⁴ 35. The ink-supply system of claim 25, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

102 26. The ink-supply system of claim ⁹⁷28, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

104 27. The ink-supply system of claim ⁹⁴25, wherein said ink absorbing member comprises at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink-supply delivery port being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink-supply delivery port.

105 28. The ink-supply system of claim ⁹⁴25, wherein the ink absorbing member is held in compression in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port by said ink-supply tank.

Sub 23 29. An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer,

3 comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank and compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port.

86 40. The ink-supply system of claim ⁸⁵39, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^athe compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

Sub 24 41. The ink-supply system of claim 40, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed}desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an

inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

~~42.~~ The ink-supply system of claim ⁸⁹41, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

⁹⁰43. The ink-supply system of claim ~~42~~, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ~~the~~^a compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

^{Sub 85} ~~44.~~ The ink-supply system of claim 41, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port.

⁹²45. The ink-supply system of claim ~~44~~⁹¹, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

⁸⁷46. The ink-supply system of claim ~~39~~⁸⁵, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

⁹³47. The ink-supply system of claim ~~41~~⁸⁸, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

^{Sub 86} ~~48.~~ An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer head comprising:

an ink-supply tank;
an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material contained within said ink-supply tank; and

means projecting into said ink-supply tank for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printer head, said ink absorbing member being compressed in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means.

59⁵⁸~~48~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~48~~, wherein said ink-supply tank includes a wall facing said ink receiving and transmitting means, said ink absorbing member being compressingly contained in the space intermediate said wall and said ink receiving and transmitting means.

60⁵⁹~~50~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~49~~, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink receiving and transmitting means is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^athe compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

61⁵⁹~~51~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~49~~, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed}desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

63⁶¹~~52~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~51~~, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

64⁶³~~53~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~52~~, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink receiving and transmitting means is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^athe compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing

member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

65 ⁶¹54. The ink-supply system of claim ~~51~~, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink receiving and transmitting means.

66 ⁶⁵55. The ink-supply system of claim ~~54~~, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

Sub 57 > 56. The ink-supply system of claim 48, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} ~~desired~~ capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

57. The ink-supply system of claim 56, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

67 ⁵⁸~~58~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~48~~, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

62 ⁶¹~~59~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~51~~, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

68 ⁵⁸~~60~~. The ink-supply system of claim ~~48~~, wherein said ink absorbing member comprises at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink receiving and transmitting means being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the

porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink receiving and transmitting means.

69 ~~61~~. The ink-supply system of claim ⁵⁸~~48~~, wherein the ink absorbing member is held in compression in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means by said ink-supply tank.

Sub 58 62. An ink-supply system for a dot matrix printer, comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank and compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port.

A7 Cond. 73 ~~63~~. The ink-supply system of claim ⁷²~~63~~, wherein said ink-supply tank includes a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port, at least a portion of the ink absorbing member being compressingly contained in the space between said ink-supply delivery port and said wall of said ink tank.

C 74 ~~64~~. The ink-supply system of claim ⁷³~~64~~, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^athe compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

Sub 59 65. The ink-supply system of claim 63, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed}desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

66. The ink-supply system of claim 65, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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79-67. The ink-supply system of claim ~~66~~, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

Sub 510
68. The ink-supply system of claim 65, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port.

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81-69. The ink-supply system of claim ~~68~~, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

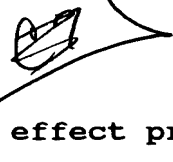
Q? Cont.
Sub C6
70. The ink-supply system of claim 62, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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84-71. The ink-supply system of claim ~~70~~, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

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75-72. The ink-supply system of claim ~~62~~, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

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82-73. The ink-supply system of claim ~~65~~, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

76 ⁷²74. The ink-supply system of claim ~~72~~, wherein said ink absorbing member comprises at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink-supply delivery port being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink-supply delivery port.

Sub 811  75. A dot matrix printer comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and
an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:
an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port; and
an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said ink-supply tank and compressed in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port.

A7 Cont. 38 ³⁷76. The dot matrix printer of claim ³⁷75, wherein said ink-supply tank includes a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port, at least a portion of the ink absorbing member being compressingly contained in the space between said ink-supply delivery port and said wall of said ink tank.

39 ³⁸77. The dot matrix printer of claim ³⁸76, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

40 ³⁸78. The dot matrix printer of claim ³⁸76, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the desired

capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

41 ⁴⁰79. The dot matrix printer of claim 78, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

42 ⁴¹80. The dot matrix printer of claim 79, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

43 ⁴⁰81. The dot matrix printer of claim 78, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port.

44 ⁴³82. The dot matrix printer of claim 81, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

Sub G 12 83. The dot matrix printer of claim 75, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

84. The dot matrix printer of claim 83, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

46 ³⁷85. The dot matrix printer of claim 75, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure

sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

45 ~~86~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ⁴⁰78, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

47 ~~87~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ³⁷75, wherein said ink absorbing member comprises at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink-supply delivery port being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink-supply delivery port.

48 ~~88~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ³⁷75, wherein the ink absorbing member is held in compression in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port by said ink-supply tank.

Sub ~~88~~ 813 → 89. A dot matrix printer, comprising:

printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port and a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank and compressingly contained in the space defined between said wall facing said ink-supply delivery port and said ink-supply delivery port.

29 ~~90~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ²⁸89, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^athe

compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

Sub §14 & 91. The dot matrix printer of claim 90, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} desired capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

92. The dot matrix printer of claim 91, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

33 93. The dot matrix printer of claim ³² 92, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^a the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

Sub §15 & 94. The dot matrix printer of claim 91, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port.

35 95. The dot matrix printer of claim ³⁴ 94, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

30 96. The dot matrix printer of claim ²⁸ 95, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

36 97. The dot matrix printer of claim ³¹ 96, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure

sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

Sub 16 29
98. A dot matrix printer comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank;

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material contained within said ink-supply tank; and

means projecting into said ink-supply tank for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member for delivery to said printing means, said ink absorbing member being compressed in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means.

2 99. The dot matrix printer of claim 98, wherein said ink-supply tank includes a wall facing said ink receiving and transmitting means, said ink absorbing member being compressingly contained in the space intermediate said wall and said ink receiving and transmitting means.

3 100. The dot matrix printer of claim 99, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink receiving and transmitting means is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^a the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

4 101. The dot matrix printer of claim 99, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} ~~desired~~ capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an

inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

⁶ ~~102~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ~~101~~⁴, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

⁷ ~~103~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ~~102~~⁶, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink receiving and transmitting means is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^a the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover means.

⁸ ~~104~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ~~103~~⁴, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink receiving and transmitting means.

⁹ ~~105~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ~~104~~⁸, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

Sub P 17 ¹⁰ ~~106~~. The dot matrix printer of claim 98, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} ~~desired~~ capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

107. The dot matrix printer of claim 106, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

¹⁰ ~~108~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ~~98~~¹, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure

sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

⁴
5 109. The dot matrix printer of claim 101, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

¹
11 110. The dot matrix printer of claim 98, wherein said ink absorbing member comprises at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink receiving and transmitting means being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink receiving and transmitting means.

¹
12 111. The dot matrix printer of claim 98 wherein the ink absorbing member is held in compression in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means by said ink-supply tank.

¹⁰
13 112. A dot matrix printer, comprising:
printing means for applying ink in a dot matrix to effect printing; and

an ink supply means for delivering ink to said printing means comprising:

an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port; and

an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within said tank and compressingly contained by the ink-supply tank against the ink-supply delivery port.

¹⁵
16 113. The dot matrix printer of claim 112, wherein said ink-supply tank includes a wall facing said ink-supply delivery port, at least a portion of the ink absorbing member being compressingly contained in the space between said ink-supply delivery port and said wall of said ink tank.

17 ¹⁶ 114. The dot matrix printer of claim 113, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^a the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member.

20 ¹⁶ 115. The dot matrix printer of claim 113, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} ~~desired~~ capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

21 ²⁰ 116. The dot matrix printer of claim 115, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

22 ²¹ 117. The dot matrix printer of claim 116, wherein said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port is a cover means bearing on said ink absorbing member when assembled to said ink-supply tank to at least in part apply ^a the compressive force to effect compression of said ink absorbing member, said ink-supply tank cover including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface, at least a portion of said projections extending from the inner wall surface of said cover.

23 ²⁰ 118. The dot matrix printer of claim 115, wherein said projections are formed in an inner wall surface of said wall of said ink-supply tank facing said ink-supply delivery port.

24 ²³ 119. The dot matrix printer of claim 118, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

Sub ~~8~~ 19

120. The dot matrix printer of claim 112, wherein said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank when said ink-supply tank is filled to the ^{designed} ~~desired~~ capacity of the ink-supply tank, said ink-supply tank including an inner wall surface having projections to provide a space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

121. The dot matrix printer of claim 120, and including means for providing ambient air to the space between said ink absorbing member and said wall surface.

18 ~~122~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ¹⁵ ~~112~~, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

25 ~~123~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ²⁰ ~~113~~, and including ink impregnated in the ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

19 ~~124~~. The dot matrix printer of claim ¹⁵ ~~112~~, wherein said ink absorbing member comprises at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink-supply delivery port being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink-supply delivery port.

Sub ~~8~~ 20

125. A method for supplying ink to a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material within an ink-supply tank formed with an ink-supply delivery port;

compressing said ink absorbing member in the vicinity of said ink-supply delivery port; and

~~withdrawing~~ ink from said ink-supply tank through said ink-supply delivery port.

¹⁰⁸
109 ~~126~~. The method of claim ~~125~~, wherein said compression of said ink absorbing member is effected by the securing of a cover means which bears on the ink absorbing member and faces said ink-supply delivery port.

Sub D21 ¹⁰⁸
127. The method of claim 125, and including a space between at least an inner wall surface of the ink-supply tank and the ink absorbing member, and including the further step of providing ambient air to said space.

Sub C12 ¹⁰⁸
128. The method of claim 125, including the further step of applying ink to said ink-supply tank so that said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank.

Q7
Cont.
¹⁰⁸
110 ~~129~~. The method of claim ~~125~~, including the further step of applying ink to said ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

¹⁰⁸
111 ~~130~~. The method of claim ~~125~~, including the step of forming said ink absorbing member of at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink-supply delivery port being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink-supply delivery port.

¹⁰⁸
112 ~~131~~. The method of claim ~~125~~, wherein the step of compressing said ink-absorbing member is by the engagement thereof by said ink tank.

Sub D22 ¹⁰⁸
C13
132. A method for supplying ink for a dot matrix printer comprising:

providing an ink absorbing member formed of a porous material mounted within an ink-supply tank;

providing means projecting into said ink-supply tank for receiving and transmitting ink from said ink absorbing member;

compressing said ink absorbing member in the vicinity of said ink receiving and transmitting means; and

withdrawing said ink from said ink-supply tank through said ink receiving and transmitting means.

⁵¹
52 ~~133~~. The method of claim ~~132~~, wherein said compression of said ink absorbing member is effected by the securing of a cover means which bears on the ink absorbing member and faces said ink receiving and transmitting means.

A?
Cond.
~~Sub D23~~ 134. The method of claim 132, and including a space between at least an inner wall surface of the ink-supply tank and the ink absorbing member, and including the further step of providing ambient air to said space.

~~Sub C14~~ 135. The method of claim 132, including the further step of applying ink to said ink-supply tank so that said ink absorbing member carries substantially all of the ink in said ink-supply tank.

⁵¹
53 ~~136~~. The method of claim ~~132~~, including the further step of applying ink to said ink absorbing member under a pressure sufficiently low to substantially eliminate air bubbles in the ink absorbing member.

⁵¹
54 ~~137~~. The method of claim ~~132~~, including the step of forming said ink absorbing member of at least two separate porous members disposed as stacked layers, one of said porous members which is closer to said ink receiving and transmitting means being made of a porous material having a smaller average pore size than the porous material of the other porous member more remote from said ink receiving and transmitting means.

55 ⁵¹ 138. The method of claim ~~132~~, wherein the step of compressing said ink-absorbing member is by the engagement thereof by said ink tank.

DISCUSSION

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants present claims specifically directed to the ink-supply system taught in the application as filed, and to dot matrix printers formed therefrom, as well as the method of delivering ink to a dot matrix printer. The claims are specifically directed to the compression of the ink absorbing member in the vicinity of the ink-supply delivery port (also referred to in the claims as the ink receiving and transmitting means). This compression serves to provide a gradation in pore size with smaller pores in the vicinity of the exit to the tank (the above-mentioned port or means) so that the ink will tend to gravitate to the exit by increased capillary force in the compressed region, leading to efficient and relatively complete ink delivery, as taught in the specification.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants also make each of the amendments to the specification and drawings approved by the Examiner in the issued parent application (07/401,539). These amendments were found not to introduce new matter by the Examiner in the parent application. By way of background explanation, applicants repeat herewith the explanation for several of the amendments provided in said issued parent application and furnish with this application a Declaration by applicants equivalent to a Declaration furnished in the issued parent application and accepted by the Examiner.

In the course of confirming the approval by the applicants of the amended claims in the issued parent application, it was found that the specification and drawings included an erroneous designation of FIGS. 9 and 10 as "prior art". In order

to correct this erroneous designation, applicants submit herewith their Declaration pointing out how the error arose and confirming that, in fact, FIGS. 9 and 10 are not "prior art" under U.S. law. Rather, FIGS. 9 and 10 represent earlier versions of applicants' development which were neither published, publicly known nor commercialized before the filing of the Japanese priority applications incorporating these FIGS. The error arose because the development claimed in this application was disclosed in a series of five Japanese patent applications filed over the period from October 13, 1983 to May 22, 1984, the priority of all but the first of which is claimed here. The latest of these applications treated the drawings of FIGS. 9 and 10 as prior art because similar structures were depicted in applicants' earlier or simultaneously filed Japanese applications. In view of the change of designation, the description of these figures has been moved from the Background of the Invention to the body of the specification. Entry of these amendments, which presents no new matter, is respectfully requested.

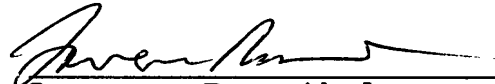
The drawing and specification have also been amended to meet an objection to the specification interposed in the issued parent application under Section 112 on the ground that there was no support for the recited "means for controlling the actuation of said wires ..." in a claim presented in the application for the issued parent and associated specification teaching. Specifically, a schematic "print control" 25 has been added to FIG. 2 and appropriate specification references thereto have been added to pages 7 and 11.

The specification has also been amended to insure that there is full verbal support for the claims in this case. Specifically, in reviewing the claims, it was noted that the term "ink supply port" was often used to describe not only the opening

41 (FIG. 4) or 141 (FIGS. 9 and 10) through which the arm 12d of the ink guide member 12 passes, but also to describe the periphery of the groove 12b in said arm 12d when the arm is in position in engagement with the ink absorbing member. (See e.g. original claims 7-9, 12, 18). A sentence was added to page 8, line 29 to insure full support for the claim language (also used in the allowed claims of the parent) without adding any new matter.

If, after consideration of the claims of this divisional application, any questions remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned counsel for the purpose of resolving any outstanding issues, giving the receptionist who answers our docket number 9050-930-C.

Respectfully submitted,



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